



NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Former Chief Clerk of Tribal Court Sentenced for Embezzlement

GRAND FORKS - United States Attorney Drew H. Wrigley announced that on January 19, 2006, **Yvette LaFloe Falcon**, 39, of Belcourt, North Dakota, was sentenced by United States District Court Judge Ralph R. Erickson to serve 18 months in a Federal prison for one count of conspiracy to commit offenses against the United States and two counts of embezzlement from an Indian tribal organization. **Falcon** was found guilty by a Federal jury on October 28, 2005.

Judge Erickson further sentenced **Falcon** to three years of supervised release, 100 hours of community service, \$11,508.54 in restitution, and a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

The incidents occurred between April 1999 and January 2002 while **Falcon** was employed as the chief clerk of tribal court in Belcourt. **Falcon** authorized trips and payments to herself and others based on fraudulent documents for travel and training to Las Vegas, Nevada; Jacksonville, Florida; Ashley, Illinois; and Eau Claire, Wisconsin. Based on the fraudulent documents, **Falcon** and others received funds from the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa.

The case was investigated by the United States Department of Interior Office of Inspector General, United States Department of Justice Office of Inspector General, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and Bureau of Indian Affairs - Turtle Mountain Agency.

Assistant United States Attorney David Peterson prosecuted the case.

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